

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1-98 (Canceled)

99. (Currently Amended) A hammering device for delivering an impulse to an object, comprising:

an impact surface adapted to contact the object during use;

an elongated member extending from the impact surface, wherein the elongated member comprises a first end substantially proximate the impact surface and a second end substantially distant from the impact surface; and

a grasping member coupled to the elongated member, wherein the grasping member is configured to fit over a portion of the elongated member such that at least one cavity is formed between the grasping member and the elongated member, ~~and wherein the grasping member is configured to be grasped by a human hand during use, and wherein~~ the at least one cavity has a minimum thickness proximate to an ideal pivot point of the hammering device.

100. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 99, wherein the grasping member is configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

101. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 99, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the at least one cavity, wherein the grasping member comprises a compressible material, and wherein the compressible material of the grasping member is less compressible than the compressible material disposed within the at least one cavity.

102. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 99, wherein the grasping member comprises a surface of increased friction for grasping by the human hand.

103. (Currently Amended) The hammering device of claim 99, wherein said at least one cavity is configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

104. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 99, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the at least one cavity.

105. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 104, wherein the compressible material comprises air.

106. (Cancelled).

107. (Previously Presented) A hammering device for delivering an impulse to an object, comprising:

an impact surface adapted to contact the object during use;
an elongated member extending from the impact surface, wherein the elongated member comprises a first end substantially proximate the impact surface and a second end substantially distant from the impact surface; and
a grasping member coupled to the elongated member, wherein the grasping is configured to fit over a portion of the elongated member such that two cavities are formed substantially opposite each other between the grasping member and the elongated member, ~~and~~ wherein the grasping member is configured to be grasped by a human hand during use, and wherein at least one cavity has a minimum thickness proximate to an ideal pivot point of the hammering device.

108. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 107, wherein the grasping member is configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

109. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 107, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the two cavities, wherein the grasping member

comprises a compressible material, and wherein the compressible material of the grasping member is less compressible than the compressible material disposed within the two cavities.

110. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 107, wherein the grasping member comprises a surface of increased friction for grasping by the human hand.

111. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 107, wherein the two cavities are configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

112. (Cancelled)

113. (Cancelled)

114. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 107, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the two cavities.

115. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 114, wherein the compressible material comprises air.

116. (Currently Amended) A hammering device for delivering an impulse to an object, comprising:

an impact surface adapted to contact the object during use;

an elongated member extending from the impact surface, wherein the elongated member comprises a first end substantially proximate the impact surface and a second end substantially distant from the impact surface; and

a grasping member coupled to the elongated member, wherein the grasping member is configured to fit over a portion of the elongated member such that an annular cavity is formed between the grasping member and the elongated member, ~~and~~ wherein the grasping member is configured to be grasped by a human hand during use, and wherein the annular cavity has a minimum thickness proximate to an ideal pivot point of the hammering device.

117. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 116, wherein the grasping member is configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

118. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 116, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the annular cavity, wherein the grasping member comprises a compressible material, and wherein the compressible material of the grasping member is less compressible than the compressible material disposed within the annular cavity.

119. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 116, wherein the grasping member comprises a surface of increased friction for grasping by the human hand.

120. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 116, wherein the annular cavity is configured to reduce shock forces felt by the human hand from the elongated member during use.

121. (Cancelled)

122. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 116, further comprising a compressible material disposed within the annular cavity.

123. (Previously Presented) The hammering device of claim 122, wherein the compressible material comprises air.